Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards

Alternate - Science

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Overview

Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards Alternate for Science (AIMS A Science) is administered to eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD). This State Assessment measures what students know and are able to do in the content area of science and is aligned with the Arizona Alternate Academic Standards for science. Students will receive test reports with specific information detailing their progress toward meeting the alternate standards. Schools will receive test reports with student results that can be used to identify a student's strengths and weaknesses.

Eligible students are assessed yearly in Grades 4, 8, and 10. High school students should be assessed during their second year of high school.

Accommodations and Adaptations

Students with significant cognitive disabilities (SCD) require intensive instructional supports which are provided through instructional adaptations and strategies.

AIMS A Science incorporates many best practices, instructional adaptations, and strategies into the assessment; however, if there are other instructional adaptations being used routinely for instruction in the educational setting and documented in the student's IEP, those adaptations and strategies can be used to support the student during the administration of the AIMS A Science.

The table below provides samples of accommodations and instructional strategies. This is not an exhaustive list.

Testing Adaptations and Instructional Strategies		
Time/Setting	**Presentation**	**Response**
Testing over multiple days	Oral reading by Testing Administrator	Augmentative devices or other Assistive Technology
Extended time	Large print or magnification device	Adaptive calculators
Multiple or frequent breaks	Sign language	Number or alphabet lines
Change in schedule	Tactile graphics	Manipulatives
One on one or small group	Manipulatives	Visual/verbal/physical cues
Noise buffers	Audio amplification devices	

Testing Time Guidelines

Test Coordinators identify the AIMS A Science eligible students in the Student Selector Application in the fall. Test Administrators are to not identify or add eligible students. Test Administrators will have access to their students' AIMS A Science Tests through ADEConnect, Alternate Assessment. If Test Administrators cannot access the Alternate Assessment Application through ADEConnect, please contact the district or charter Test Coordinator. ADEConnect has replaced Common Logon.

AIMS A Science must be administered according to the designated timeline. All school districts and charters must adhere to the timelines as noted. If there are any changes in the AIMS A timeline, notification will be sent to all Test Coordinators and posted on the ADE website www.azed.gov.

Test Administrators must be aware of AIMS A Science testing window, which is February 15-March 31 of the current school year. If the closing date falls on a weekend, it would be extended to the following Monday.

Administering the Test

The Test Administrator will access the AIMS A Science application through ADEConnect located on the ADE website home page at www.azed.gov.

After logging into ADEConnect, choose the alternate assessment option.
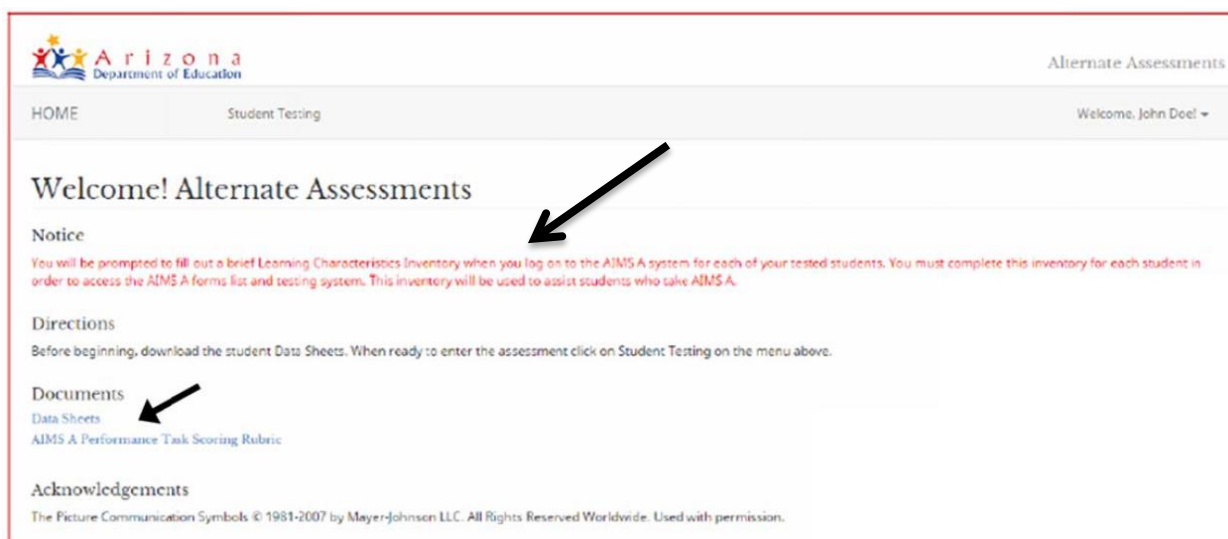
The Test Administrator's home page for Alternate Assessment will display. Here you will find the data sheets link. Also on this page is the notice to Test Administrators to complete a Learning Characteristics Inventory for each tested student.

The Test Administrator will administer both portions of the AIMS A Science Test (multiple choice and performance tasks). If a student becomes fatigued or is unable to complete the assessment, the assessment can be paused and resumed at a later time within that same school day or thereafter as long as tests are administered during school hours. The tests can be given in any order.

Test Administrators must present every test question and prompt to the student. Time stamps are provided for all sections of the assessment. Each item is time stamped when a student starts and completes a section of the test.

The testing window opens February 15. This is also the earliest that Test Administrators can print data sheets for their students. Test Administrators will still be required to print data sheets from the homepage of the Alternate Assessment Application.

The No Response Option in AIMS A Science is now referred to as a Scribe Accommodation to have consistency between the two Alternate Assessments. For AIMS A Science, the Test Coordinator will now indicate this accommodation for student's though the Student Selector Application in ADEConnect. There will no longer be a separate No Response Option Form. The Scribe Accommodation for AIMS A Science is only for those students:

- with physical impairments or disabilities which restrict them from being able to physically make an answer selection on the multiple choice section of the assessment

    Or

- who have no response even after each of the test item has been administered.

Online AIMS A Science Test

To begin the actual assessment for each student, the Test Administrator will use the menu option "Student Testing." Before clicking on "Student Testing," ensure the school is correct. The Test Administrator's class list will display.
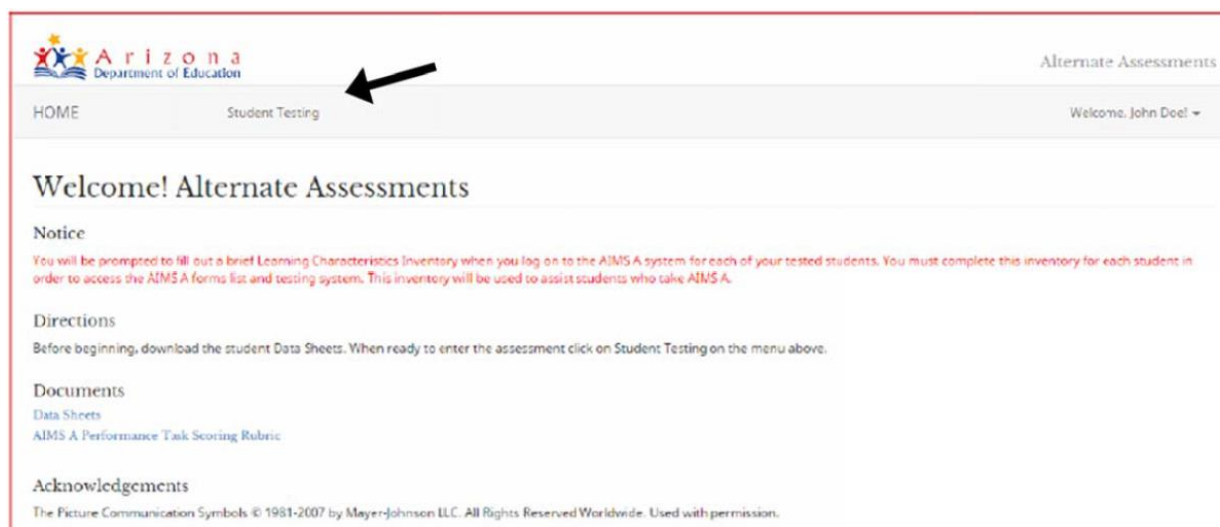
- The Test Administrator will then click on the student's SAIS ID.
- Above "Student Data" select "Forms."
- A list of tests assigned to the student will display.

Form		Subject	Status
Grade 8 Practice	Teacher View	Student Input		N/A
Grade 8 Science Multiple Choice	Teacher View	Student Input		Complete
Grade 8 Science Performance Tasks	Teacher Edit	Science	Complete

The "Teacher View" allows the Test Administrator to view the questions only. This could assist in gathering the needed supports when administering the test. The Test Administrator will click on "Student Input" to allow the student to make answer selections and/or if the student has a No Response/Scribe accommodation, the Test Administrator will click on "No Response". The "No Response" button is located at the top right hand corner of the page.

Multiple Choice

Once a Test Administrator logs in and selects a student to begin testing for the multiple choice section, a time stamp for that test is documented. The student selects an answer from three options. If a student has a No Response Option/Scribe accommodation because the student physically cannot select the answer on his or her own, or because the student is cognitively unable to respond to a prompt, the Test Administrator will then select "No Response" for each test item. This option will be located in the upper right corner of each test item on the screen. If you cannot locate the "No Response" button, please contact your Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator. The Alternate Assessment Coordinator can then contact the Alternate Assessment Unit at 602-542-8239 to request this option for your student. This accommodation must be manually activated in the system for the student.

The Test Administrator must administer all parts of the test to the student during the student's school hours and input the student's responses to the multiple choice section with the student present. Test Administrators are not permitted to write down student responses for multiple choice items. Failure to administer the multiple choice section correctly could result in an invalidation of the student's test.

Test Administrators can adapt or use accommodation documented in the student's IEP and routinely used in the classroom when administering the multiple choice section of AIMS A Science Test.

Performance Tasks

Performance tasks are standardized constructed response items. Test Administrators must gather the materials necessary to complete the performance tasks before beginning the student assessment. Objects, photos, or more familiar pictures may be substituted for any picture card provided (see Performance Task Materials section below). The Test Administrator will present each item to the student and indicate the student responses on the data sheets. The Test Administrator will then input the student responses from the data sheets into the performance task section. For the performance task portion of the test, a Test Administrator can enter the student responses outside of the student's school hours. However, all Test Administrators must follow their district's or charter's requirements for entering students' responses. The student responses are still required to be entered during the testing window dates.

Performance Tasks will be scored using the AIMS A *Science Performance Task Scoring Rubric*. Test Administrators should be very familiar with the rubric as there are specific requirements for cues and prompts at the different levels. Test Administrators must present every question or prompt to a student before indicating a level 1 (No Response in TCM) to a test item. The AIMS A Science *Performance Task Scoring Rubric* is shown below.

AIMS A PERFORMANCE TASK SCORING RUBRIC

	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
FIRST: Prompts with Answer Card Choices	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and shows answer card choices contained in test materials. Student responds without assistance or only with a single repetition of the prompt. (Do **not** label/read answer card choices).	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and identifies/reads answer card choices contained in test materials.	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and identifies/reads answer card choices contained in test materials.	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and removes all items/distracters (answer card choices). Present student only the correct answer card choice with any cues as necessary.	The student is non-responsive after Performance Task prompt was presented with all levels of support.
Prompts without Answer Card Choices*	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt. Student responds without assistance or only with a single repetition of the prompt and uses **wait time** only.	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and **uses a single cue.**	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt and **uses 2 cues.**	Test Administrator reads Performance Task prompt **with any cues necessary, Test Administrator will verbally state correct response for student to imitate or repeat.**	
		Cues that can be used at Level 4: physical/verbal cues, auditory cues, gestural cues, tactile cues, and visual cues.	*Cues that can be used at Level 3: physical/verbal cues, auditory cues, gestural cues, tactile cues, and visual cues.*	*Cues that can be used at Level 2: physical/verbal cues, auditory cues, gestural cues, tactile cues, and visual cues.*	
THEN: ADD STRATEGY	None	**Elaborate** the question: provide additional clarifying information on directions or expected response.	**Demonstrate** a similar response: "This is picture of a dog. Show me the picture of the cat."	**Model** exact response: "This is a picture of a dog. What is this?" (Show picture/object representing dog.)	
SCORE	The student responds correctly. **Record a score of 4** If the student: • Does not respond independently; • Responds incorrectly; • Does not perform the requested task when given wait time; or • After test administrator repeats the instructions; Move to Level 4.	The student responds correctly. **Record a score of 3** If the student: • Does not respond; or • Responds incorrectly; Even with the addition of elaboration; Move to Level 3.	The student responds correctly. **Record a score of 2** If the student: • Does not respond; or • Responds incorrectly; Even with the addition of a demonstration; Move to Level 2.	The student responds correctly. **Record a score of 1** If the student: • Does not respond; or • Responds incorrectly; Even with a model, cues, and removal of all distracters; Move to Level 1.	The student does not respond. **Record a score of 0**

*NOT ALL PERFORMANCE TASK PROMPTS HAVE ANSWER CARD CHOICES

A full version of the rubric can be located at www.azed.gov/assessment/aims-a/ under the "Videos and Webinars" tab.

Test Administrators may refer to the list of cues on the AIMS A *Performance Task Scoring Rubric*. This resource may clarify the types of cueing that are available and allowable as well as how to implement them within the various levels of the rubric. The cues from the AIMS A *Performance Task Scoring Rubric* are shown below.

Cues

Cueing is a way to help support or signal a student. A cue by itself does not give the student a direct answer. Most importantly cues should be understood by the student and eventually faded. *This is not an exhaustive list.*

Physical Cue: Offers physical guidance to support or elicit a response. Hand over hand, tapping the back of a hand, holding an elbow, pointing, or standing by a student to stop a behavior (proximity), etc.

Verbal Cue: Gives the student oral or verbal information. "Look at me", "put letter *A* first", "it's 11:30 (lunchtime)", etc.

Gestural Cue: A movement or gesture which is understood by student to extract a specific behavior. Pointing, tapping, winking, waving, etc.

Auditory Cue: Presents a sound or noise used to focus or gain student's attention. Tapping on table, bells, timer, ringers, etc.

Visual Cue: Alerts a student to where to focus and/or where to respond: Color coding, labeling, highlighting, arrows, concrete objects, etc.

Tactile Cue: Provides an item for the student to feel or a touch support for student. Feather, velrco, sandpaper, concrete objects, etc.

Example of how to use rubric:

Give student an alphabet chart.

"Sally point to the letter S." No response from student. **Support at Level 5:** *wait time.*

"Sally point to the letter S. It is between the letter R and U. Remember it is the first letter of your name." No response from student. **Support at Level 4:** *verbal cue* and elaboration.

"Sally watch me point to the letter R. Now you point to the letter S." (Teacher points to letter R and teacher puts hand on top of Sally's and moves her hand near the letter S. No response from student. **Support at Level 3:** *gestural and physical cues* and demonstrated a similar response.

"Sally watch me point to the letter S. Now you point to the letter S." (Teacher covers all letters with a paper, teacher guides Sally's hand to letter S and Sally moves finger once over the letter S. **Support at Level 2:** *physical cue*, removes all distracters and modeled a response. <u>**SCORE: 1.**</u>

A full version of the cues can be located at www.azed.gov/assessment/aims-a/ under the "Videos and Webinars" tab.

Performance Task Materials

School districts and charters will receive pre-packaged testing materials for the performance tasks. Testing materials will be provided in classroom sets, not for each individual student. Testing materials will be sent to the Test Coordinator who will be responsible for the initial inventory and distribution to schools. At the end of the testing window, all testing materials will be collected by the Test Coordinator, inventoried, and

returned to ADE. Test Administrators are still responsible for printing the data sheets for each student. **The data sheets are located on the home page of the Alternate Assessment Application.**

Test Security

AIMS A Science is a valid and reliable test. It is to be treated as securely as the general assessment (AIMS Science) in every way. Under no circumstances is this test to be used in any way other than as a summative assessment during the approved time frame.

It is unethical and shall be viewed as a violation of test security for any person to:

- Administer the test without completing all pre-test trainings
- Share any books, answer documents, test booklets, paper based assessments, online tests, or other secure ancillary documents
- Give access to secure test materials to anyone other than students to whom the test is administered and staff who have signed a District Test Coordinator and/or Test Administrator security agreement
- Fail to keep all secure test materials under lock and key except during actual test times
- Examine, read, or review secure student documents
- Use secure test materials for instruction before or after test administration
- Change student responses or notations

If for any reason a testing incident occurs which involves the security of the AIMS A Science assessment, the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator must alert the Alternate Assessment Unit and submit an Incident Report through the AIMS A Science Application in ADEConnect.

Instances that would qualify as test security incidents can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Test administration outside of school hours
- Record students' responses when students are not present
- Test students as a group
- Release of testing materials
- Loss of testing materials
- Use of testing materials and items in instruction

Test Administrators will read and sign their Test Security Agreement form and return it to the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator for your PEA.

The Test Security Agreement form for Alternate Assessment Test Administrators must be signed yearly. Only one Alternate Assessment Test Security is need for both AIMS A Science and MSAA.

**Arizona's Alternate Assessments: AIMS A Science and MSAA ELA and Mathematics 2017
Test Security Agreement (Test Administrators)**

I acknowledge that AIMS A Science and MSAA ELA and Mathematics are secure tests and agree to the following conditions of use to ensure the security of the tests.
1. I shall take necessary precautions to safeguard all test materials.
    a. I shall sign an Arizona Alternate Assessments Test Security Agreement.
    b. Access to test materials including the online multiple choice section is restricted. I shall not attempt to gain access to test materials beyond that which is granted to me by my school/district test coordinator, superintendent, or charter representative.
    c. If test materials including student data sheets are distributed to me, I shall keep them under lock and key **except during actual test times**.
    d. I shall not permit students to remove test material from the testing room except under the supervision of staff.
    e. I shall not examine, read, or review the AIMS A Science nor MSAA ELA and Mathematics tests.
        i. I shall not disclose, nor allow to be disclosed, the content of the tests.
        ii. I shall not discuss any test item at any time.
        iii. I shall not examine, read, or review any student responses.
        iv. I shall not report any students' answer choices based on previous experience outside the testing window.
    f. I shall not use any test materials for instruction before or after test administration.
    g. If test materials are distributed to me, I shall return all AIMS A Science and MSAA ELA and Mathematics test materials including student data sheets to the special education director or test coordinator immediately upon the completion of testing.
2. I understand that the district superintendent or charter representative will develop, distribute, and enforce disciplinary procedures for the violation of test security by staff.

Individuals who will administer AIMS A Science and MSAA ELA and Mathematics tests for 2017 must also agree to the following conditions to ensure the correct administration of the tests.
3. I shall participate in training activities prior to administering the tests.
4. I shall review the *AIMS A Science 2017 Test Administration Directions* as well as, those for *MSAA ELA and Mathematics* as appropriate prior to administering the test.
5. I shall follow all instructions in the *AIMS A Science 2017 Test Administration Directions* as well as those for MSAA ELA and Mathematics including **presenting all test items from all sections of the assessments to the student during the student's school day**.

By signing my name to this document, I am assuring my district/charter and the Arizona Department of Education that I will abide by the above conditions and that anyone I supervise, who will have access to the 2016 AIMS A Science test and MSAA ELA and Mathematics tests will also sign a Test Security Agreement.

Signed By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____ District: _____ School: _____

> **Please return signed copy as per instructions from your special education director or test coordinator.
> Signed Test Security Agreement Forms will be maintained by the Test Coordinator for 6 years.**

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